are, I would urge that the referees have power to decide as to their effect, and as to the mode in which the provisions are to be carried out, a power expressly given to them by the 82nd section.' The registrar remarked that the power given to the official referees is not an absolute power, but that their decisions must be within the limits of law, and that the statute must be construed according to the established rules of legal interpretation — that though it is the function of the official referees, as in some cases of a jury, to determine matters of law as well as matters of fact, especially architectural matters of an indefinite nature, in which they are peculiarly skilled, yet that section 82 must be construed together with section 89, and that the awards of the official referees must not be 'contrary to law or beyond their competence.' That they may determine the effect of the provisions, which of course must be citable, but not make new provisions or supply the defects of existing ones.

Mr. Godwin admitted that he could not cite any provision that applied in terms, but he relied upon the inference he drew from the provisions of schedule E, which, though permitting some, and prohibiting other smaller matters, must be held, as it appeared to him, to apply *à fortiori* to larger matters.

(Signed) ARTHUR SYMONDS."

The registrar says, that with respect to the cases cited, the circumstances were not the same: he would have found it much more difficult to point out differences in them recognised by the Act than to make this statement. We assert, without fear of contradiction, that if there be nothing in the Act to prevent a builder from bringing forward a detached house before the line of his neighbour's front, there is nothing to prevent the same proceeding in a close row of houses.

The way in which the registrar states the argument "deduced from the express application of the rules to *smaller* things, namely, copings &c., balconies, &c., bow windows, &c., that such rules must be held to apply to *larger* matters, as entire buildings," and then again, in the last paragraph, that Mr. Godwin "relied upon the inference he drew from the provisions of schedule E, which, though permitting some, and prohibiting other, *smaller* matters, must be held, as it appeared to him, to apply *à fortiori* to *larger* matters," —shews clearly, as it seems to us, that the registrar does not quite see the real bearing of the argument. 'Large' and 'small' have little to do with the question. The schedule provides clearly that the only parts of an external wall which may stand before the general line of fronts are *architectural decorations*: there are no exceptions,—these alone are permitted. Further, that certain projections which do *not* in their nature form part of an external wall, may project before the line on the owner's own ground, if not injurious to the adjoining owners or occupiers, but parts of an external wall, with the one exception abovenamed, may not project before the general line, even if wholly harmless. The difference between projections which *are* in their nature parts of external walls and projections which are not parts, dwelt upon in the schedule, is not so visible, perhaps, to a lawyer as to an architect or builder.

Where the registrar makes the remark "that some of the earlier awards had been founded upon a strained interpretation of the act," he ought to have pointed out that the case of 'Hudson and Aitchison' was a much earlier award than any of those quoted by Mr. Godwin, and that the referees evidently admitted that *this* "had been founded upon a strained interpretation of the act;" since in their later awards they had decided differently.

The question is a simple one: have the referees power to determine what is the general line of fronts, and to enforce or prevent projections before it? If they have not power to determine it in this case they have not in any other, as the Commissioners of Woods will speedily find out, should they be led to confirm the registrar in his refusal to affix the seal. Being somewhat concerned in this case, we would rather that the question had arisen in any other, but since it has so happened, we must not allow personal scruples to prevent us from placing it fully before those of our readers who, residing within the limits of the act, are of course interested in its settlement.

THE CATTLE MARKET AND ABATTOIR COMPANY'S Bill has been thrown out by the House of Commons.

ROYAL INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS.

AWARD OF MEDALS.

ON Monday last, the 21st inst., the Earl de Grey, president, took the chair at an ordinary meeting of the Institute, when a variety of donations were announced, including a series of portraits of architects from Mr. Donaldson. The president pointed out the ease with which valuable collections of this sort might be made, if every member would but do something towards it, however small. Single prints—of themselves valueless—when gathered into the folios of the Institute, aided in forming an important whole.

Mr. W. A. Boulnois, M. R. W. Heneker, and Mr. J. Morant Lockyer, were elected associates; and the honorary secretary, Mr. G. Bailey, then read the report of the council relative to the medals for the session 1847-8. With reference to the Royal medal, it was stated that, in pursuance of notification in the various publications, English and foreign,—"On the 31st of January, 1848, the council met to receive nominations and applications of candidates, when sixteen names (eight Englishmen and eight foreigners) were given in and considered. The meeting being adjourned to the 14th of February, the claims of the several candidates were further considered; and a ballot being taken, the majority of votes was found to be in favour of Mr. Cockerell; and it was accordingly—'Resolved, That the Royal medal of the Institute be awarded to Charles Robert Cockerell, Esq., R.A., Professor of Architecture in the Royal Academy of Arts, London, Member of the Royal Institute of France, &c., in testimony of his distinguished merits as an architect.'

"For the silver medal of the Institute, offered for the best essay 'On the application of sculpture and sculptured ornament to architecture, and the principles which should regulate their introduction into buildings generally, both with regard to beauty of embellishment and propriety of style,—

Three essays have been received, distinguished by the following mottoes:—1. 'Junius;' 2. 'Rule;' 3. 'Nisi utile est quod faceimus frustra est gloria.'

The three essays display much ingenuity and a praiseworthy habit of observation; they contain many judicious observations on the higher branches of sculpture, but in general the remarks are too indefinite, and are deficient in the illustration derivable from immediate reference to examples.

The authors appear to have mistaken the immediate aim of the question proposed:—the subject is of a practical and positive nature, in relation to a specific architectural purpose, and was not intended to elicit a disquisition upon the abstract attributes of sculpture.

Sculptured ornament, a most important section of the programme, appears in two of the papers to have totally escaped the attention of the writers, and in the third is only casually alluded to.

The council, however, are of opinion that the author of the essay headed 'Junius' has evinced considerable talent, and that he is justly entitled to the medal offered.

For the Soane Medallion, the subject being 'A design for a building to contain public baths on a comprehensive scale, with all suitable accessories, and combining the magnificence of the ancients with the usages and purposes of modern times,'—

Five designs have been received, thus distinguished:—

A. Four drawings and MS. description, motto, 'Quod potui perfeci. No. 1.'

B. Four drawings, motto 'Quod potui perfeci.'

C. Six drawings, motto 'Ne minium expectes annis prudentiæ crescit.'

D. Three drawings marked 'Aquarius.'

E. Two drawings and MS. description, marked 'Christophorus.'

The council cannot refrain from noticing the little attention which appears to have been given by some of the candidates to the printed conditions, and particularly as respects the adaptation of the buildings 'to the usages and purposes of modern times.'

Although the several designs are formed on a scale sufficiently comprehensive to embrace all imaginable as well as suitable accessories, in some no indication is given of provision being made for the varieties of medicated or other baths so much in use in the present day: nor reservoirs, nor the requisite apparatus for heating the large quantities of water that would be required to supply such extensive warm and tepid baths as are shewn in the drawings: neither are chimneys or shafts provided to carry off the smoke, steam, &c., which it would be impracticable, under any circumstances, to consume.

The council are of opinion that the design marked 'Christophorus' possesses, on the whole, the greatest degree of merit, notwithstanding the unfavourable manner in which it is represented in the drawings of the elevations and sections, and sufficient to justify the bestowing on it the award offered."

The meeting having adopted the report, the sealed letters of the successful candidates were opened, and it appeared that the author of the essay marked "Junius," was Henry Bayly Garling, associate; and of the design marked "Christophorus," James M'Laren, 64, Broughton street, Edinburgh.

The noble President said, relative to the award of the Royal medal, that the council, on coming to their determination, had signified to him their desire that the decision should be first mentioned to her Majesty. Fortunately, he was honoured with an invitation, or rather an order to dine at the palace on that day, and took the opportunity of pointing out to Prince Albert the European interest which had been excited by the medal, the desire of the council to act impartially, and the name of the gentleman on whom the choice had fallen. His Royal Highness, approving it fully himself, said Mr. Cockerell should consider himself fortunate in having the suffrages of the council, and that the names from abroad shewed how much the medal was an object of interest. The Prince then mentioned it to the Queen, and the president was able to state that the award had her Majesty's approval.

Mr. Penrose then read a paper "on some of the geometrical lines and optical corrections of the Greek architects," which we shall lay before our readers in full next week.

After the paper, a letter from Mr. Jopling was read, inquiring of Mr. Penrose, amongst other things, if the curve was not conchoidal rather than hyperbolic, as stated by Mr. P.

Mr. Penrose replied, that there was nothing like a conchoid to be found in the Greek temples: all the curves were hyperbolic.

NOTES IN THE PROVINCES.—The dam protecting the new steam basin works at Portsmouth from the sea having given way, and the cross-dam dividing the works under the contracts of Mr. Rolt and Mr. Bramble being insufficient, or unprepared to withstand the weight of water, the new large dock and sea-wall became inundated. A new cross-dam, however, has been made and the influx stopped. The loss to Mr. Bramble, it is said, will be considerable. The Admiralty are held blameable for urging the works forward with too much haste.——Plans for the new baths and washhouses at Hull have been approved of by the corporation surveyor, Mr. Thorp, and tenders are to be called for by advertisement forthwith.——The contractor for the Grimsby dockworks, Mr. Lime, has engaged above 100 additional workmen, and the excavation of the cofferdam is in progress by night, with the aid of camphine lamps, as well as by day.——Government has granted funds for building a Sunday and national school in connection with St. Mary's Chapel, Marrport, which is to be in the Elizabethan style, from a design by Mr. J. Ashbridge, Jun. ——Gawber Church, an early English building, designed by Mr. W. James Hindle, of Barnsley, architect, is now completed.

FREE IMPORTATION OF ZINC INTO FRANCE.—The French Government has issued an ordinance relating to the free importation of zinc into France, which will be the means of increasing the manufactories of Belgium, as well as those of Prussia. Raw zinc, or in pigs, intended to be flattened in France and re-exported, will be admitted free of duty. The loss of fabrication is fixed at 5 per cent. in the weight of zinc in its raw state. The re-exportation, or re-integration, into *entrepot*, of flattened zinc, must be made within three months at the most.

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